



June 12, 2002

The Honorable Billy Tauzin  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
2181 Russell House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Thomas  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
United States House of Representatives  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Tauzin and Chairman Thomas:

On behalf of the American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA), I am writing to thank you for including a one-year moratorium on the therapy caps for Medicare beneficiaries in the House Medicare package. We appreciate and support your efforts.

As you are aware, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 imposed two separate caps on outpatient rehabilitation services provided outside of hospital outpatient departments (\$1,500 on physical therapy and speech-language pathology services and \$1,500 on occupational therapy services). In response to concerns expressed by Medicare beneficiaries and providers of therapy services, Congress imposed a two-year moratorium on the therapy caps as part of the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999. This moratorium was extended in the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 to December 31, 2002. AMRPA appreciates your efforts to ensure that beneficiaries who need rehabilitation therapeutic care are not denied it because of these caps – for at least another year.

AMRPA continues to advocate for eliminating the therapy caps entirely, both because we perceive that the new outpatient fee schedule makes them unnecessary and because the caps place Medicare beneficiaries with significant health needs at risk of losing important therapeutic care. However, we respect and understand your decision to proceed with a one-year fix to this problem. Given the financial limitations facing Congress and your

Committees this year. We hope to continuing working with you and your staff to achieve an overall solution to the problems presented by the therapy caps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. P. Main". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Main" clearly distinguishable.

Robert P. Main  
Chairman of the Board  
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation

cc: The Honorable Michael Bilirakis  
The Honorable Nancy L. Johnson